

Message Text

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R 221050Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9154
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 13005

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PK, GR, TU
SUBJECT: GREEK PM VISITS PAKISTAN

REF: ATHENS 13438

SUMMARY: SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS OF GREEK PM KARAMANLIS' DECEMBER 14-17 VISIT TO PAKISTAN WERE LIMITED. DESPITE SPECULATION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF KARAMANLIS' OLD FRIEND PM BHUTTO PLAYING A ROLE IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTES, NO SUCH PROSPECT IS LIKELY IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. FROM THE GOP POINT OF VIEW, THE VISIT SERVED FURTHER TO BURNISH BHUTTO'S IMAGE AS A WORLD STATESMAN AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HIS POLICY OF "BILATERALISM" IS A VIABLE CONCEPT USEFUL TO PAKISTAN'S INTERESTS. THE PAKS WERE ABLE TO RECRUIT GREEK SUPPORT FOR BHUTTO'S THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC SUMMIT PROPOSAL. THE GOP WAS CAREFUL TO REASSURE THE TURKS AND THE PAK PUBLIC THAT TALKING TO GREEKS DOES NOT MAR ISLAMABAD'S SPECIAL RELATION-
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SHIP WITH ANKARA. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DECEMBER 14-17 "GOOD WILL" VISIT TO PAKISTAN OF GREEK PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS AROUSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN ISLAMABAD, LARGELY BECAUSE IT INVOLVED A MEETING BETWEEN GOP LEADERS AND TRADITIONAL ADVERSARIES OF ONE OF

PAKISTAN'S CLOSEST ALLIES AND SUGGESTED THAT PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO MIGHT AGAIN BE PREPARING TO PLAY A ROLE IN HELPING RESOLVE GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES. FACT THAT KARAMANLIS WAS THE FIRST GREEK HEAD OF GOVERNMENT TO VISIT PAKISTAN SINCE ALEXANDER THE GREAT CAME TO THESE PARTS IN THE FOURTH CENTURY B.C. (ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL CONNECTION ABOUT WHICH MUCH WAS MADE DURING THIS VISIT) ADDED TO THE INTEREST. AS EMBASSY ATHENS HAS REPORTED, HOWEVER, (REFTEL), SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS OF THE VISIT HAVE BEEN LIMITED.

2. FROM THE PAKISTANI POINT OF VIEW, THE VISIT SERVED FURTHER TO BURNISH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S IMAGE AS A STATESMAN FAMILIAR WITH WORLD LEADERS AND INVOLVED IN WORLD PROBLEMS, AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HIS MUCH-TOUTED POLICY OF "BILATERALISM" IS A VIABLE CONCEPT USEFUL TO PAKISTAN'S INTERESTS. (THIS POLICY, DEVELOPED IN REACTION TO WHAT BHUTTO CONSIDERED THE GOP'S OVERINDULGENCE OF US GLOBAL INTERESTS IN THE FIFTIES AND EARLY SIXTIES, HAS IT THAT PAKISTAN SHOULD MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH A VARIETY OF DISPARATE COUNTRIES IF IT IS TO HER ADVANTAGE TO DO SO.) THE VISIT ALSO PROVIDED THE OCCASION FOR THE PAKS TO RECRUIT GREEK SUPPORT FOR BHUTTO'S CALL FOR A THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC SUMMIT.

3. WHILE CITING THE GREEK VISIT FOR ITS EVIDENCE OF THE SUCCESS OF "BILATERALISM," THE GOP WAS CAREFUL REPEATEDLY TO REASSURE TURKEY--AND THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN WHO ARE NATURALLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE (MUSLIM) TURKISH CAUSE--THAT THE VISIT WOULD NOT MAR THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN ISLAMABAD AND ANKARA. THUS, IN THE EXCHANGE OF TOASTS AT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE BHUTTO-HOSTED STATE DINNER, THE PAK PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT PAKISTAN "DEEPLY CHERISHED ITS ALLIANCE WITH TURKEY." HE ADDED THAT "THERE IS NO AMBIGUITY IN PAKISTAN'S POSITION. THE FRATERNAL TIES BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND A COUNTRY LIKE TURKEY ARE NOT ENTANGLED IN DOUBTS." SIMILAR SENTIMENTS WERE ALSO EXPRESSED IN EDITORIAL COMMENT BY THE PAKISTAN TIMES AND OTHER GOP-OWNED NEWSPAPERS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED TO MFA THREE TIMES DURING THE VISIT, APPARENTLY TO KEEP THE TURKS IN THE PICTURE SO AS TO PROVIDE FURTHER REASSURANCES.

4. WHILE THE VISIT GENERATED MUCH SPECULATION HERE (PARTICULARLY ON THE PART OF THE SMALL NUMBER HERE AWARE OF THE RECENT UNPUBLICIZED VISITS OF SENIOR PAKISTANI MINISTERS TO ATHENS AND ANKARA) ABOUT THE ROLE BHUTTO MIGHT PLAY IN HELPING FIND A SOLUTION TO GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT HE WILL UNDERTAKE SUCH A ROLE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. TOLD BY EMBOFFS THAT THE USG

WOULD NATURALLY BE INTERESTED IN ANY SUCH ROLE IN LIGHT OF OUR OWN PAST INVOLVEMENT, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL SHAHARYAR KHAN SAID THAT BHUTTO HAD TOLD THE GREEKS THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO DO WHAT HE COULD WHENEVER BOTH SIDES FELT HE COULD BE USEFUL. SHAHARYAR SAID HE SAW NO PROSPECT AT PRESENT THAT THE PM'S OFFER WOULD BE TAKEN UP. HE NOTED THAT PAKISTAN, AS A LONG TIME ALLY OF TURKEY, WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE VIEWED BY THE GREEKS AS A SUFFICIENTLY IMPARTIAL THIRD PARTY. MOREOVER, WITH THE TWO SIDES ALREADY TALKING TO ONE ANOTHER IN A NUMBER OF FORUMS, NO THIRD PARTY WAS REALLY NECESSARY.

5. IN ADDITION TO CARRYING ON DISCUSSIONS DESCRIBED BY BOTH

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SIDES AS VERY USEFUL (SHAHARYAR ATTESTED THAT THEY WENT WELL), THE GREEKS AND PAKS ALSO SIGNED TWO COOPERATION AGREEMENTS DURING THE VISIT. THE FIRST, A RENEWABLE, FIVE YEAR ACCORD FOR CLOSER ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, ENVISAGES JOINT PROJECTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AND THE SETTING UP OF A JOINT COMMITTEE TO INSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. THE SECOND, A GENERAL CULTURAL AGREEMENT, DETAILS COOPERATION IN CULTURE, SPORTS, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND MASS MEDIA, AS WELL AS EXCHANGE OF BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS, FILMS, AND TEPKZ SION PROGRAMS. IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFFS, SHAHARYAR KHAN TENDED TO MAKE LIGHT OF THE AGREEMENTS. HE SAID THAT THE PAKS DID

NOT EXPECT MUCH TO COME OF THE STATED EFFORTS TO INCREASE
TRADE BECAUSE GREECE WAS A COUNTRY WITH LIMITED RESOURCES
WITH LITTLE TO EXPORT AND NO REAL MARKET FOR PAKISTANI
PRODUCTS. SHAHARYAR KHAN DID MENTION THAT THERE HAD BEEN PRE-
LIMINARY DISCUSSION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING A FEW HUNDRED
TRAINED PAKISTANI SEAMEN TO GREECE TO CREW ON GREEK SHIPS
(5-6,000 UNLICENSED ONES WERE RECENTLY DEPORTED) AND
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MENTIONED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOURIST TRADE, A GOP GOAL,
AS ONE AREA WHERE THE GREEKS MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE
THE PAKS WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

6. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE, A BLAND DOCUMENT, STRESSED
THE NEED FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE GREEK-TURKISH
DISPUTES, AND THE SIMILARITY OF GREEK AND PAK VIEWPOINTS
ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. IT ALSO RECORDED GOG
SUPPORT FOR BHUTTO'S THIRD WORLD SUMMIT PROPOSAL. ON THE
GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES, PAKISTAN EXPRESSED ITS "DEEP
CONCERN AT THE TENSION THAT HAS DEVELOPED" BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES AND WELCOMED THE FACT THAT A DIALOGUE FOR THE
RESOLUTION OF THE AEGEAN SEA ISSUES HAD ALREADY STARTED.
BOTH SIDES WELCOMED THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN BERNE REGARDING
THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE "IN ACCORDANCE
WITH PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA THAT MAY BE EVOLVED
FROM A STUDY OF THE PRACTICES OF STATES AND INTERNATIONAL
RULES." THEY EXPRESSED THE EXPECTATION THAT "THE BILATERAL
ISSUES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY WOULD BE RESOLVED IN A
SPIRIT OF MODERATION AND RESTRAINT FROM BOTH SIDES." ON
THE MIDDLE EAST, BOTH SIDES REITERATED THEIR CONVICTION
THAT "A JUST AND LASTING PEACE ... COULD BE ACHIEVED ONLY
ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF INADMISSIBILITY OF THE
ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY BY FORCE OF ARMS." THEY CALLED
FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM ALL OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES, "THE RESTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL RILZTS OF THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UN RESOLUTIONS,
AND THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AT AN EARLY
DATE." KARAMANLIS "WELCOMED ... BHUTTO'S (THIRD WORLD
SUMMIT) INITIATIVE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD
PROMOTE A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE DEVELOPING
UNDTMGBPED COUNTRIES TOWARD BRINGING ABOUT A JUST WORLD
ECONOMIC ORDER." ON SOUTH ASIA, THE COMMUNIQUE CONFINED
ITSELF TO MENTIONING KARAMANLIS' APPRECIATING OF BHUTTO'S
SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE RESTORATION OF REGIONAL
NORMALCY AND TO A BRIEF RENDITION OF THE GOP POSITION (WITH
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NO INDICATION THAT THE GREEKS SUPPORTED THIS) ON THE
IMPORTANCE OF A SETTLEMENT OF THE KASHMIR DISPUTE.

7. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO CARRIED THE RITUAL WORD THAT BHUTTO
HAD BEEN INVITED TO VISIT GREECE. ASIDE FROM THIS POSSIBLE
FUTURE CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, WE UNDERSTAND
THAT THERE IS A GOOD LIKELIHOOD THAT THE GREEKS WILL ESTABLISH
A RESIDENT MISSION IN ISLAMABAD. THEY ARE PRESENTLY
REPRESENTED HERE BY AN AMBASSADOR AND STAFF POSTED IN TEHRAN.
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